

Strategy Research Project

Research is a key component of senior level education. At the beginning of the program, fellows will be provided with an overview of the research process and timelines along with examples from previous years. They will also participate in a DAU and Webster University Research Resources workshop. Topics covered will include: selecting research topics, library resources, organizing the project, developing a schedule, literature reviews, methodology, thematic analysis, quantitative analysis, surveys, findings and recommendations.

Over a period of ninety days, fellows will then complete the DAU FPD 310 Introduction to Research course which is an interactive on-line course designed to introduce research. The course will build upon the in-class Research Methods workshop by further describing various types of research methods and when they are most appropriately used to conduct a study. Fellows who complete this course will be able to:

- Identify different types of research methods;
- Discuss tools and techniques associated with different types of research methods;
- Explain the relationship between a research question and the methodology appropriate for investigating it;
- Differentiate between a good and a bad research question;
- Develop a viable research question that can be investigated in a study; and
- Defend the viability of a research question and the appropriateness of the methods chosen to investigate it.

After completing both courses, fellows will be able to take their research question and formulate a plan for conducting a study to investigate it. Each fellow then works with the APG SSCF Director, DAU faculty members and a Project Advisor to develop a topic into a research problem that can be addressed through a structured method.

A final paper is submitted to the APG SSCF Director as a DAU Research Report in fulfillment of the **Research Project** requirement and for potential publication in the *Defense Acquisition Review Journal* and the *Defense AT&L Magazine*. Fellows should also plan on defending their research to the peers, DAU faculty, and command sponsors at the end of the academic year.

Fellows will use an iterative approach to provide early drafts and subsequent revisions to advisors as they build their reports. Below is a listing of selected research topics for the 2009-2015 APG fellows:

- *Improving US Army Analysis of Alternatives to Better Address the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009*
- *In Sourcing or Outsourcing: What Makes Sense in Today's Operating Environment*
- *Organic VS. Commercial Conventional Ammunition Production*
- *DAIWA Certification Compliance at ATEC Workforce*
- *Today's Crisis in Contracting: Can it be solved?*
- *Altering Leadership Thinking and Organizational Behavior through Web Services*

- *Consistency of Pay for Performance Evaluation across a Geographically Dispersed Command*
- *Knowledge Transfer Loss in a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environment: A Positive or Negative Acquisition Paradigm Shift*